

## **Town of Falmouth**

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## **NEWS RELEASE - 2014-04**

For Immediate Release: March 24, 2014

For Further Information, contact Chief Howard Rice, Jr. at 207-781-2610

## Falmouth Fire-EMS Responds to House Fire on Foreside Road

On Monday March 24<sup>th</sup> at 4:59 a.m. the Falmouth Fire-EMS Department responded to a report of a fire in a residence at 169 Foreside Road. A passerby delivering newspapers on Foreside Road noticed the fire and called 911. A Falmouth Police Officer arrived at 5:02 a.m. to find heavy fire in the middle of the house coming out of the roof. A "Working Fire" was immediately transmitted bringing all Falmouth Fire-EMS units to the scene as well as mutual aid from Portland and Cumberland. The house was a large farmhouse that had an attached addition and barn. The house, believed to have been built in the 1850's sustained major damage to the main house and attached connector to the addition. The fire was stopped before it burned the addition and attached barn.

Crews battled freezing temperatures which caused the ground and building to build up with a thick coating of ice. Falmouth Public Works was called in to help sand the area for the firefighters. In addition to all Falmouth Fire-EMS units, firefighters were assisted by a ladder and engine from Portland, and an engine from Cumberland. Yarmouth and North Yarmouth Fire Departments covered the Falmouth stations during the event. There were no injuries on scene.

Due to the severity of the fire, the Maine State Fire Marshall's Office was called in to assist Falmouth Fire-Ems with determining the cause of the fire. It is undetermined at this time. The building was vacant at the time of the fire. It had recently been purchased and the new owners were scheduled to move in this week.

Foreside Road was closed from 5 am until just after noon today. The morning school buses were re-routed around the incident. The afternoon buses ran as scheduled.

End of release.

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